

Meeting Outline

May 18, 2021 | Click [here](#) for online streaming, requests to comment, and committee information.

Public Utilities, Energy, & Technology Interim Committee

8:30AM – 11:00AM

Anchor location for meeting: 1150 State Office Building, State Capitol Complex, Salt Lake City, Utah

Members of the public are invited to participate [online](#).

1. Committee Business

Background

- Call to order
- [Draft minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting](#)
- [Open and Public Meetings Act training](#)
- [Review JR7-1-S401](#)
 - [Master Study Items List](#)
- [Review JR7-1-S602](#)
- [Review JR7-1-S602.5](#)

Presenters

- **Sam Brucker**, Policy Analyst, Office of Legislative Research & General Counsel
- **Rikka Strong**, Attorney, Office of Legislative Research & General Counsel

Potential Action

- Motion to approve draft minutes of the November 17, 2020 meeting.
- Motion to approve master study items list.
- Motion to authorize chairs to open committee bill files.

2. State Energy Plan and Statewide Transmission

Background

State Energy Plan

- In 2010, former Governor Gary R. Herbert announced his intent to create the Utah Energy Initiative – a 10-year statewide strategic energy plan. That plan was updated in 2014 and in 2018, the Governor's Office of Energy Development released an energy action plan through 2020.
- In the 2021 General Session, H.B. 388 passed the Legislature. H.B. 388 amended the state energy policy to include a policy of developing energy resources to:
 - promote the development of pumped storage and advanced energy systems including hydrogen;
 - respond to disruptions in state energy resources; and
 - maintain reserves in case of disruptions.
- Part of the goal of this study item is to review the challenges and opportunities of the 2010-2020 energy plan, bring relevant stakeholders together to consider next steps for a new state energy plan, and review any changes to the state energy policy.
- [PRESENTATION: 2010-2021 Strategic Plan, Utah Governor's Office of Energy Development](#)
- [PRESENTATION: Deseret Power](#)
- [PRESENTATION: Transmission and State Energy Plan](#)
- [REPORT: Energy Initiatives & Imperatives: Utah's 10-Year Strategic Energy Plan 2.0, Utah Office of Energy Development](#)
- [REPORT: Utah's Energy Action Plan Through 2020, Governor's Office of Energy Development](#)
- [2021 GS H.B. 388: State Energy Policy Amendments](#)

Statewide Transmission

- In 2021, the Utah Office of Energy Development released the Utah Transmission Study: A Study of the Options and Benefits to Unlocking Utah's Resource Potential. In the 2019 GS, SB3 allocated funds for an analysis of the Utah electrical transmission grid.
- Part of the goal of this study item is to review highlights of the study and receive updates on certain transmission line projects. Statewide transmission projects will likely be a recurring theme throughout the 2021 interim.
- [REPORT: Utah Transmission Study: A Study of the Options and Benefits to Unlocking Utah's Resource Potential](#)
- [2019 GS S.B. 3: Appropriations Adjustments](#)

Issues

- **Review of the energy plan from 2011-2020**
 - What were the challenges?
 - What were the opportunities?
 - What was accomplished in the plan?
 - What wasn't?
 - Are there efforts in place for a new statewide energy plan?
 - What are they and what can we expect for the next ten years?
- **Review of state energy policy in statute**
 - Are there any planned updates/changes to conform with HB 388, 2021 GS?
- **Review of the transmission line study and transmission line projects**
 - What are some highlights of the transmission line study?
 - What transmission line projects are currently underway?
 - What transmission projects are expected to come?
 - Notable projects where transmission lines are being expanded? Rural areas?
 - Is there an update on the Utah portion of the TransWest Transmission Project?
- **What, if anything, is needed from the Legislature?**

Presenters

- **Thom Carter**, Energy Advisor and Executive Director, Office of Energy Development
- **Jon Cox**, Vice President of Government Affairs, Rocky Mountain Power
- **Jeff Peterson**, Executive Director, Utah Rural Electric Cooperative
- **Mike Squires**, Director of Government Affairs, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems
- **Joe Tippetts**, Of Counsel, TransWest Express LLC

Potential Action

- Request additional information.
- Open a committee bill file.

3. Broadband Funding, Infrastructure, & Access

Background

- In the 2021 General Session, the Legislature passed H.B. 348. Among many other changes, H.B. 348 created the Utah Broadband Center within the Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED). GOED works with broadband providers, local, state, and federal policymakers, and other stakeholders to expand broadband access and usage statewide.
 - In 2020, the Utah Broadband Advisory Council released the Utah Broadband Plan, which is a joint effort among community stakeholders and state agencies, some of which include:
 - Governor's Office of Economic Development;
 - Utah Education and Telehealth Network;
 - Utah Department of Transportation;
 - Utah Communities Connect; and
 - Department of Technology Services' Automated Geographic Reference Center.
 - This study item will receive multiple presentations that will review funding for past, present, and future projects, opportunities and challenges that remain, and access to rural areas of Utah.
- [PRESENTATION: Broadband Funding, Infrastructure, & Access](#)
 - [2021 GS H.B. 348: Economic Development Amendments](#)
 - [REPORT: Utah Broadband Plan – January 14, 2020; Utah Broadband Advisory Council](#)

Issues

- What recent legislation and appropriations are affecting broadband infrastructure projects?
- What are the efforts and role of the Utah Broadband Center?
- What projects are currently underway or planned for?
- What opportunities and challenges remain in expanding broadband infrastructure?
- Do individuals in low-income, rural, and/or multicultural communities have less access to broadband services?
- What can the state do to increase access to digital opportunities for low-income, rural, and multicultural communities?
- Are there updates on progress made regarding broadband projects for certain schools in the Navajo Nation?
- What, if anything, is needed from the Legislature?

Presenters

- **Rebecca Dilg**, Rural Community and Outreach Manager, Utah Governor's Office of Economic Development
- **Dr. Ray Timothy**, Director, Utah Education and Telehealth Network
- **Sarah Young**, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Utah State Board of Education
- **Liz Gabbitas**, Technology and Innovation Coordinator, State Library Division
- **Vikram Ravi**, Impact & Implementation Coordinator, Salt Lake County Regional Development
- **Olivia Whiteley**, Western States Advocacy Officer, International Rescue Committee
- **Ron Nielson**, Superintendent, San Juan School District
- **Aaron Brewer**, Technology Director, San Juan School District

Potential Action

- Request additional information.
- Open a committee bill file.

4. Other items/Adjourn